

'Hit Books' Champs Urged



Nephew Ray, Uncle Gale . . . football's the topic

"The world awaits the educational man."

This was the message given to members of the Roberts Dairy Midget Football Team by one of the nation's top pro players.

Chicago Bear star Gale Sayers spoke at a banquet at Anthony's Restaurant and Lounge honoring the Omaha Foundation League and Nebraska Apple Bowl champions.

Gale along with his brother Roger was a member of the last Robert championship team in 1955.

Recalling the difficulties he had in learning how to study after he entered Kansas University, Gale urged the youngsters to "start hitting the books now."

Aspiring for a pro career is good, the former Omaha Central High athletic great said. But securing a good education is more important, he added.

He noted that of the 900 players drafted by the pros each year only 150 make the pro ranks.

He also pointed out that the length of a player's career is shortening, explaining that when he broke in the National Foot-

ball League in 1965 the average career time was 5½ years and that now it is four years.

Sharing the speaking chores with Gale was his brother Roger, director of the Omaha Human Relations Department.

Roger urged the Roberts players to carry over into other activities "the tolerance, sharing, consideration and assistance" they had acquired "in the teamwork necessary to be athletic champions."

Other participants at the banquet included KMTV Sportscaster Dave Blackwell, Robert Dairy President Cal Fisher, Roberts Coach Fred Abboud and Vernon Breakfield, former football team mate of Gale's at Howard Kennedy and Central High.

Gale noted that as a youngster Breakfield was "a big kid who was over-the-weight limit for midget football." He said he was glad the weight limit had now been upped.

Gale also took time at the banquet for a conversation with his nephew, Ray Sayers. Ray son of Roger, is eight years old and in the third grade.

CITATION (APA STYLE)

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